



THE LARC JOURNAL

DECEMBER 1994



CLUB REPEATERS

VE3TBR

Phone: 767-7661
Listen: 146.82 MHz
Txmit: 146.22 MHz

VE3YQT

Phone: 767-5492
Listen: 147.06 MHz
Txmit: 146.46 MHz

NEXT MEETING



7:30 p.m., Room 245
McIntyre Building
Confederation College

New Editor, New Look

By now, everyone has noticed a few changes in this issue of *HI-Q*. You may recognize the new format. It's a combination of those used by various amateur radio magazines. A 3 column magazine layout, with a new and bolder masthead presents a fresh new image.

I realize that not everyone may like the changes. That's human nature. And that's what makes life exciting-change. What a boring and dull world it would be if everyone did everything the same way. Imagine amateur radio with Morse code as the only mode of communication.

The previous editors, have left their marks on *HI-Q* and I have adopted some of their ideas and incorporated them into my own. The editors that will follow, will most likely do the same.

To Jim, VE3UA, thank you for a job well done. I am gaining an appreciation for what you have done for the past 3 years as *HI-Q* editor. Perhaps, one day, you will come out of "retirement," hi.

The newer club members and those who don't have HF privileges, may want to have more

information from the experienced club amateurs. I'm appealing to senior amateurs to write a bit about the knowledge that they have gained over the years. You don't have to write a technical paper. Put it into plain and simple English as if you were talking to someone on the radio. *HI-Q* cannot continue without the help of club members.

Finally, I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy Chanukah. Have a safe and Happy New Year, too.-Ed.

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Are You Ready For DSP?

by Wally, VA3EI

More appropriately, "Is DSP ready for you?" The Radio Shack, DSP-100 unit is a small black box that connects between your shortwave or amateur radio audio output. It has a built-in speaker and you can connect it to an external speaker, too. The suggested retail price is \$99.95.

I couldn't get the unit out of the box fast enough—my usual reaction to a new toy brought into the shack. This is one of those gadgets that all hams wish for, when signals are at the noise level. Digital sound processing to the rescue! Or, so I thought.

A half-hour later, my conclusions: Good signals with the DSP bypassed are readable with the DSP on. A pileup on SSB, is a pileup with DSP on. You have to play with the tuning on the receiver to hear anyone in particular. You do not hear the DX station and the locals do sound *farther* away!

The DSP unit will remove those tuner-uppers and heterodynes and reduce noise on AM stations. The noise level and the overall tonal quality improves. However, "monkey-chatter" on SSB is still a problem.

I found that good CW signals, with nearby, bothersome signals are easy to filter, by selecting the narrow mode filter. The copy comfort improves. However, it doesn't remove the need for good narrow IF selectivity, with IF pass band tuning and a notch filter. A weak CW signal disappears when switching in the DSP filter!

I hooked up a CB transceiver in AM mode. Here it is a definite



Peace On Earth, Good Will Towards All

asset. Background noise reduces noticeably. The specification sheet claims that up to 20dB of noise reduction is possible.

Am I soured on DSP? Definitely not! The technology is on the right track. For serious DX'ing, selective and variable tone (audio frequency) tuning and notching is a requirement. Narrowing the bandwidth skirt is not enough. I also feel that once a signal gets to the final audio stage, only basic filtering is possible.

My Kenwood's external speaker with its 3 adjustable audio filters, is nearly as effective and introduces less distortion. I can see the benefit of DSP that is an integral part of a receiver. This is available in the high-priced rigs. Sometimes, the simplest analog audio filter will suffice for most of your amateur radio requirements.

For everyday hamming, I'll move up or down a couple and let the rest battle it out!

Signals From Space

from DX Ontario

The MIR space station is active on the 2 metre band. Listen on 145.550MHz. MIR is usually heard on packet radio but on occasion, they will use FM voice.

The space shuttle uses this frequency as a radio downlink. They also use 144.91, 144.93, 144.95, 144.97 and 144.99MHz. Please don't transmit on the downlink frequency!

FOR SALE

Icom 32AT dual band HT
5W-Rubber Duck Antenna
manuals

OFFERS

Contact Andrew, VE3JJX at
807-623-2824 evenings

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Meeting Minutes by Norm, VE3XRC

Minutes of a meeting of the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club held in Room 245 at Confederation College, Thunder Bay, Ontario on November 10, 1994.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by the President, VE3TKA, Terry Stewardson with 41 members and guests in attendance. The meeting started with a round-table of those in attendance introducing themselves.

Minutes of the previous meeting:

The minutes of the previous meeting held October 13, 1994 were published in detail in the November 1994 edition of *HI-Q* and mailed to all members.

Motion: Moved by VE3RVA, Bob Hansen and seconded by VE3BHN, Bob Gillespie that the minutes be accepted as printed. Carried.

Correspondence

The club has received newsletters from several clubs across Canada. These are available for viewing.

Two letters, one addressed to Joe Commuzzi and the other to Stan Drominsky were promoted by the club. These letters were taken from the latest edition of *The Canadian Amateur* and refer to an Industry Canada document called EMCAB-2. The letter encourages our members of parliament to have this document rescinded and withdrawn. All members of the LARC are encouraged to sign and send this letter or a similar letter to their member of parliament.

Treasurer's Report

VE3BBS, Skip Wright reported the annual 1993-94 financial statement as of November 10, 1994 as follows:

Balance as of Oct. 13, 1994:

\$1,505.72

Expenses: \$ 213.23

Income: \$1,885.22

Balance as of Nov. 10, 1994:

\$3,177.71

Motion: Moved by VE3GWT, Gary Michaluk and seconded by VE3GTX, John Watson that the Treasurer's report be accepted. Carried.

President's Report VE3TKA, Terry Stewardson

The new editor of *HI-Q*, VA3ROM, Bob Mazur was introduced. Terry asked the club members to help Bob out in any way that they can. The ham classes for 1994-1995 have started. From initial indications, it appears that the class will have between 15 and 18 students.

Old Business

The Link: VE3TKA, Terry Stewardson reported that the biggest problem is time. He will be conducting tests from St. Joseph's Heritage. If the signal is consistent to Grand Marais, the link will be set up there. The hardware and mechanical devices are ready.

New Business

Nordic Games Outdoor Uniforms: VE3ZG, Mike Nawrocki brought in a poster showing the design and

colour of the outdoor uniform for club members to view.

Irkutsk Radio Club: VA3GD, Pat Doherty and VE3UA, Jim O'Brien have been talking to their friends in Russia. Members of the Irkutsk Radio Club are thinking about coming to Canada in 1995. They are in the preliminary planning stage at this time. It is proposed that the Russians fly to Montreal at their cost. It is proposed that we will look after their expenses while in Canada.

The president of the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club will be asked to send a formal invitation to the Irkutsk Radio Club. Jim and Pat are looking at setting up a "foundation" for fund raising. It will be "pocket picking time again" to quote Pat's words.

Motion: Moved by VE3ICY, Glen Wallace and seconded by VE3GTX, John Watson that the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club invite representatives from the Irkutsk Radio Club to Canada and that VA3GD head up a committee to proceed with the arrangements for a communications seminar. Carried.

Thunder Bay Voyageur Award:

There was some discussion on how to promote the Thunder Bay Voyageur Award.

Motion: Moved by VE3ZG, Mike Nawrocki and seconded by VE3KRH, Steve Robb that VE3OTV, Ine Rehffuss put together a group to promote the Thunder Bay Voyageur Award on the HF bands. Carried.

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Support and protect your hobby-join today.***

Meeting Minutes
continued from page 3...

December Meeting

As this will be the last meeting before Christmas, a challenge has been put forth to the members to build home-brew CW keys. These works of art are to be brought to the December meeting to be judged with regard to their workmanship and design. Prizes will be awarded.

2m Contest: VE3BBS, Skip Wright reminded everyone of the VE3BGA, Barry Hunter Memorial 2m Contest will be held in December. During December, log your 2m contacts, both SSB and FM on repeaters or simplex. Work any executive member of the LARC and get bonus points. Forms and rules are available from VE3BBS. You can also use this contest to promote the Thunder Bay Voyageur Award. Rules will be published in the next HI-Q.

Adjournment

Motion: Moved by VE3ZG, Mike Nawrocki that the meeting be adjourned. **50/50 Draw:** Winner of the 50/50 draw was VE3MJN, Marion Nawrocki.

FOR SALE

Icom O2AT 2m, 5W HT
extended receive-10 memories
multi-purpose-scanning
synthesized-BP4 battery pack
wall charger-carrying case

ASKING \$225

Contact Glen, VE3ICY at
807-623-0135

Voyager Award Activity Days

by Ine, VE3OTV

To promote the Voyageur Award, all LARC members with HF privileges are urged to participate in activity days (1 or 2 hours on the weekends). This will give hams across the world the opportunity to work this award.

If you are properly licensed and have a working HF station (20m band mostly), please contact Ine, VE3OTV, at 767-3888 and let her know that you are prepared to give a point or two once in awhile on HF. She'll explain the rest to you on the phone.

Whenever the club mails out an award, it receives \$2.00 and you may be able to work some exotic countries! Why not give it a try? The club is counting on you!

My goals for this project were: It had to be easy to use. My wrist gets tired pounding brass after a few hours; it had to take up little space and weight, so I could take it camping; no batteries or electronics. I don't want this thing dying while operating portable; it had to be cheap!

Materials

1 clip board; 2 square feet of metal foil (aluminium wrap or tin); graph paper, 10 squares per inch (any will really do); 1 - 8.5 x11 in. sheet of clear plastic laminate; 4 alligator clips and wire (about 1 or 2 feet long each).

Miscellaneous

Tape, marking pen or pencil, razor blade or utility knife.

Theory

The Poor Man's Memory Keyer (PMMK-1) is a simple device that acts as a make or break circuit, just like a straight key or bug. The speed at which code is sent, is determined by how fast the operator slides one of the alligator clips across the clipboard's CW template.

The template may contain numerous parts of a standard QSO. You could make one for daily QSO's and one for contesting. Each line on the template has things like CQ, RST, QTH and name, etc. Boxes on the graph paper are cut out that have the equivalent weighting in CW.

For a DIT, cut out 1 box. For a DAH, cut out 3 boxes. The spacing between a DIT and a DAH is 1 box on the graph paper. The spacing between characters is 3 boxes, and works is 5 boxes.

KB7AVT's Poor Man's Memory Keyer PMMK

by Joe, KB7AVT

I had a pleasant conversation with Joe, KB7AVT on 20 metres. He is an electrical engineer and has designed several ingenious, practical and inexpensive devices for hams. Joe has graciously consented to allow HI-Q to present one of his inventions.-Ed.

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Poor Man's Memory Keyer
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Radio Log by Skip, VE3BBS

Construction

Write the word group or abbreviation on the left side of the graph paper. Block out the appropriate boxes on the graph paper to the right of the word group or abbreviation. Place the plastic laminate sheet over the graph paper. Cut out the inked boxes on the graph paper. Cut through the plastic laminate and the graph paper.

Fold a piece of aluminium foil so that it is 1/4 in. bigger all the way around the template. Tuck the foil under the clip on the clipboard. Make sure that the foil makes contact with the metal clip.

Flatten out the foil and rub out any wrinkles and lay the template on top of the foil. Connect one wire with alligator clips from the clipboard clip to one post on your straight key or bug. Connect a second wire to the other post. The free alligator clip is dragged across the exposed boxes of the CW template.

Notes

Don't use with grid-block keyed circuits or any high voltage circuits. Make sure that the alligator clips are insulated. Drag, don't push the alligator clip across the foil. Pushing could rip the foil. The plastic laminate will protect the template from rips and coffee spills.

Joe also cut out a 1x1 in. square in one corner of his template. He can tap out short Morse code messages using the alligator clip and template instead of reverting to his key. -Ed.

A.R.E.S.

Amateur Radio Emergency Service

Public Service events that the club gets involved with are a good training ground for all ARES members and interested hams. The LARC handles about 12 such events a year. Some of these only require a few operators but others require quite a few.

Upcoming events: The John Beargrease 500 Mile Dog Race, I-500 Snowmobile Race and the Sibley Ski Tour.

In most cases, a HT with an emergency J-pole is sufficient to work these events. Other require mobile rigs with beam antennas. However, don't let that hold you back from getting involved. You can just observe or help out the net controller.

To those amateurs that signed up for the Severe Weather Observer Program, many thanks. Application forms are still available from the EC (Skip, VE3BBS) at 767-2307 or 2m voice or packet (via VE3TKA) or on the 3750kHz ARES net every Monday evening.

WANTED-DEAD OR LIVE!

Items for the 2m and HF Swap & Shop are required. If you have something that you want to get rid of, solve your problem and place it on the Swap & Shop. It is broadcast every Monday night on the 2m mini-net between 1900 and 2000 local and on the 3750kHz net between 2015 and 2100 local, depending on conditions. Items should be ham related.

Please be kind to the net controller and put down a suggested asking price. While an "open to offers" seems like a good way to go, a lot of people shy away from these. Ask for what you think that the item is worth. If in doubt, listen to the HF Sunday night Swap & Shop on 3755kHz at 1900 hours local.

1994-1995 LARC BUDGET

The Lakehead Amateur Radio Club Board Executives will present the annual budget of expenditures for the remainder of the membership year.

Attending the December meeting will give each member a chance to voice an opinion on how the club is spending the funds that it receives.

MEMBERSHIP CARDS & UNPAID DUES

Enclosed with this issue of *HI-Q* are membership cards for amateurs who have not been able to pick them up at the meetings or the Saturday morning breakfasts or those I have not run across.

If you have received one of these cards and have not paid your membership dues for 1994-1995, please do so. The Club Executive has extended the memberships of those who have not paid their dues.

Protect your speed dial numbers and mail slots on the repeaters. Non-payment means that you may lose these privileges and have to memorize a new speed dial number. Heaven forbid!

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Support and protect your hobby-join today.***

Radio Log*continued from page 5...***LARC/RAC**

With the recent affiliation with the Radio Amateurs of Canada, members of the LARC have the option of paying their RAC memberships or renewals via the club or direct to the RAC headquarters. If you pay direct, quote account number LAK101 on your membership or renewal form. RAC credits the LARC \$3.48 towards purchases made by the club.

Memberships and/or renewal forms are available from John, VE3GTX, at any club meeting or at the Saturday morning breakfasts. Support your national amateur radio organization.

2M FM/SSB CONTEST

In memory of Barry, VE3BGA, during this December, from the 1st at 0000 UTC to the 31st at 2359 UTC, the LARC is sponsoring a 2m contest. Contacts made and logged on 2m FM (either repeaters or simplex) and SSB can be entered for points.

Contacts made on club repeaters VE3YQT or VE3TBR are 5 points. Contacts on VE3TBI (147.300), VE3WNJ (146.940) or VE3RUM (147.370) are 5 points. If the contact is with a club executive, it's worth 10 points.

Contacts made on any out-of-town repeaters (state-side) are 10 points. Contacts made on simplex frequencies are 10 points. If the contact is with a club executive, it's worth 25 points. Only 1 contact with each station is allowed to be counted for scoring purposes. You cannot work the same station on the repeater(s)

and then on simplex. You may work the same station twice on FM/simplex or SSB only. Contacts made on SSB are 25 points each. If the contact is with a club executive, it's worth 50 points. There are no points awarded for CW or packet contacts.

You must log your contacts showing the date/time, mode, frequency (via repeater or simplex). The deadline is January 15th, 1995. The winner will be announced and presented plaques at the February annual dinner.

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DENTRON 1kW HF amplifier
160 thru 10 metres-manuals
requires 220V AC

ASKING \$???

Contact Fred, VE3FAL at
807-964-2067

FOR SALE

3A regulated power supply
13.8V DC output-4A surge

ASKING \$25

Contact John, VE3GTX at
807-683-3199

FOR SALE

Icom 290H all mode-25W
5 memories-dual VFO-NB
AGC-DTMF-hand mike
manuals

ASKING \$450

Contact Andrew, VE3JJX at
807-623-2824 evenings

1994/95 LARC

Founding President
P.J. (Pat) O'Shea, VE3FW
1991-1972

Senate
Bill Roberts, VE3ARN
Keith Fiske, VE3JQ
Bert Lambert, VE3BKY
Ray Greer, VE3CH
Hugh Elliott, VE3EDW
Bill Klemacki, VE3AJ

Executive Board

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Vice-Pres: Ed Bauman, VE3SNW 622-1216
Secretary: Norm Bell, VE3XRC 577-9816
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HI-Q Editor: Robert Mazur, VA3ROM 344-7731
Editorial Assistant:
Wally Tokar, VA3EI 475-8716

Club and Newsletter Information

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Contributions related to amateur radio, in particular those articles of interest to Northwestern Ontario amateurs, are encouraged. Material may either be submitted in the form of manuscripts with drawings or photographs or on disk in either WordPerfect® 5.1/6.0 or ASCII text file format. Please use GIF, PCX or TIFF formats for graphic images (black and white preferred).

Mail your articles to: The HI-Q Editor • 82 Lawrence Avenue • Thunder Bay ON • P7A 6X5 • Canada or fax 807-345-2688. Files may be submitted via packet to: VA3ROM @ VE3TKA.#NON.ON.CAN.NA.

Send your dated announcements no later than 10 days prior to the first day of the month in which the notice is to appear.

To reduce production and distribution costs, HI-Q accepts advertising at the following per issue rates: full page-\$60.00, 1/2 page-\$40.00, 1/4 page-\$20.00 and 1/8 page-\$15.00. Reduced rates (1/3 off) available upon receipt of advance payment for 10 issues (one full year). Send your "camera-ready" copy and cheque (payable to LARC) to the club address below.

Advertising material that appears in HI-Q does not imply either an endorsement nor a recommendation of the product or service by the LARC, HI-Q or its editor.

LARC membership fees, determined annually, are set for 1994-1995 as follows: Regular-\$30.00, Associate-\$30.00, Associate (attending ham classes)-\$80.00, Student (attending school full-time)-\$15.00 and Family-\$30.00 plus \$10.00 for each additional family member at the same address.

HI-Q is distributed to all LARC members, except that only 1 copy is sent to each address.

In honour of the memory of our founding President, Mr. P.J. (Pat) O'Shea, the club call sign is VE3FW.

The LARC owns and operates 2 VHF repeaters, VE3TBR 146.82(-) located atop St. Joseph's Heritage and VE3YQT 147.06(-) on Mount Baldy.

The club mailing address is: The Lakehead Amateur Radio Club Inc. • PO Box 2571 • Thunder Bay ON • P7B 5G1 • Canada.

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Personality Of The Month by Ian, VA3RIM

Keith Fiske

On August 27, 1994, Keith Fiske, VE3JQ, at the age of 82, was made a Life Member of the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club.

Keith was born and raised in Port Arthur (now Thunder Bay). It was during his teenage years that an interest in radio technology developed as he listened to the family radio. Keith was fascinated by Morse code. He wanted to learn more about it, so his father bought a shortwave converter that was wired to the AM radio. Keith could now listen to shipping communications and shortwave broadcasts from around the world.

In 1929, Keith joined the Lake Superior Regiment of the Tenth Divisional Signals Corps, Army Reserve. Here he improved his code skills and even gave his superiors code practice! He also assisted with the Army Reserve Net which was responsible for radio communications between Winnipeg and Camp Borden, near Ottawa.

By 1930, Keith was attending Port Arthur Technical School (now Hillcrest High School) and was majoring in an electrical course. Mr. A. E. Ferguson, his teacher, learned of Keith's radio interests and the two explored radio fundamentals from theory books.

As Keith says, his early radio interest, training and practice were all intermeshed making it difficult to determine which one was the driving force. During Keith's final year in high school,



Don Clark, a local timber contractor needed radio communications between his lumber camps. He hired Charlie Smith, a local Marconi Radio station operator, to teach the first radio course. The station was responsible for Morse code ship-shore radio communications. Keith was in the first class along with 5 others. He often visited the Marconi station to listen to the ship-shore traffic. Keith says that it was "music" to his ears.

In 1932, Sam Ellis, a Radio Inspector from Toronto, arrived to give the class their examination. This involved sending and receiving Morse code plain language at 20 words per minute and cipher at 16 words per minute. Cipher is groups of 5 characters each which can be in a foreign language or secret code.

Keith was the only one who passed! He earned his Commercial Radio Licence, 2nd Class and, in 1933, his station licence and call sign, VE3JQ.

When Keith was 22, he was hired by Sinmac Lines as a radio operator on a Lake Superior tug-

boat. The tug hauled massive log booms from the Pic River, near Marathon to Munising and Marquette, Michigan. He was paid \$90 plus room and board per month. It was life on the waves that kept Keith out of the photograph of the founding members of the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club.

For 2 summers, Keith sailed Lake Superior. He even had a trip on a Laker going to Montreal as the radio operator. During the winter, Keith tended bar at the New Ontario Hotel.

When ashore, due to lack of money for radio equipment, he would go to the Shuniah dump to search for what he needed. He still has a partial roll of wire left-over from one of those "Dump Expeditions." Another escapade involved going behind Mahon's Electrical repair shop to scavenge radio parts. The backyard was next to the police station and Keith received his warning. Presumably, amateur radio builds resourcefulness and character!

In 1936, at age 24, because of his radio licence, Keith was hired by the Federal Department of Marine and Fisheries. He was sent to Slate Island, in Lake Superior, to maintain the navigational beacons and radio communications. He said that life there was pleasant with his wife and small daughter, Dolores.

In 1938, he was transferred within the same department to the Transcontinental Air Service (now Ministry of Transport). Keith was sent to Toronto for a

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Personality Of The Month
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weather course. Transcontinental Air Service was building numerous small airports across Canada and Keith's skills were in demand. After completing the course, he was sent to Porquis Junction, just east of Timmins.

Keith related several incidents to me. Part of his job, was to climb 150 foot radiating towers to replace obstruction light bulbs. The ladder was open without any protection. Keith had a safety-belt but it was too awkward to use, so he usually just attached it when he changed the bulbs! Later this job was done by professional riggers.

Another incident, was the time that he had to go into the attic of the transmitter station. He put his foot in the wrong place and fell

through the ceiling along with broken drywall and asbestos dust. After thorough cleaning, the transmitters were back on the air again!

In 1951, Keith was transferred to Malton Airport (now Pearson International) in Toronto, where he worked as a radio technician. Keith enrolled in the radio operators course at the Central Technical School (now Transport Canada Training Institute). He went to school from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and worked the 4 to 12 p.m. shift at the airport.

Keith earned his Certificate of Proficiency, 1st Class, in 1953. Upon application, he was made a Radio Inspector in Toronto. Even though Keith thoroughly enjoyed this job, he wanted to get back to his hometown. After a couple of short stints in Ottawa and

Brandon, Keith returned to this area as a Radio Inspector in Fort William (now Thunder Bay).

However, the job was causing stress for Keith. He was building his new house and was constantly travelling across Northwestern Ontario. He wanted to do more technical work and, in 1958, once again became a Radio Technician the local airport. He did this job until he retired, in 1972, at the age of 60.

In retirement, Keith continues to operate his radios and travels in his motor home. Today, he is active in the Radio Club at Grandview Lodge in Thunder Bay. He still dances at the Legion Hall in the afternoon.

As one member of the LARC said, "Keith was always the gentleman. He would go out of his way to do anything for you."

FOR AMATEURS - BY AMATEURS

AMERITRON-ANTENNACO-A.O.R.-ASTATIC-AZDEN-B&W-BAYCOM-BENCHER-CREATE-DATONG-DELHI-
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